

# Awana Contests!

Awana contests should be used to promote the objectives of Awana: to reach boys and girls with the gospel of Christ and train them to serve Him.

Contests increase motivation and excitement! They provide incentives for clubbers and leaders to achieve. Remember--you will get more of the behavior you reward. You won't get what you hope for, wish for, or beg for. You will get what you pray for and what you reward.

What types of behavior do we want more of: attendance, bringing visitors, passing sections, bringing dues, wearing uniforms, bringing Bible, bringing handbook, making progress in handbook.

The best thing about most contests: Someone will win! 😊

The worst thing about most contests: Someone will lose. 😞

There are different types of contests we can conduct in Awana:

## Competitive Contests

One team wins and everyone else loses.  
Builds high enthusiasm, is easy to design and execute.  
May lead to negative interaction, dislike, and pride.

## Individual Contests

Each person works towards an individual goal; everyone can win.  
Good for goal setting, personal achievement.  
No interaction, no communication; incentives are for self-benefit.

## Cooperative Contests

Everyone works towards the same goal; we can all win together.  
Promotes positive interdependence, interaction, support, and involvement.  
Work is spread among the team; also rewards.

## How to conduct a contest:

### Individual Achievement Contests:

Set goals for your clubbers. A good type of individual effort to reward is "Sections passed in the handbook".

Announce that everyone who meets the individualized goal will receive a prize. A special group outing is great for a reward. Keep score on a poster.

Have the clubbers give a word of testimony about the event during the following club night.

### Group Contests; competitive or cooperative:

**Select a theme.** Use your imagination. Seasonal contests, traveling contests, club motif contests, penny contests, current events contests, kick-off contests, New Year contests, One-More Person contests, Name-In-The-Hat contests, Turkey Contests, Car Race contests, etc.

**Plan the contest.** Get multiple leaders involved in planning; make sure everyone understands the contest. Keep the rules simple. Decide on 1-4 things you want to emphasize, and award points for achievement in those areas. Decide on the teams, rules and time limits.

**Publicize the contest.** Announce during council time, pass out flyers, post on bulletin board, put in church bulletin. Some contests might involve the whole church, such as collecting pennies.

**Keep score.** Have a poster or contest board to display the results of the contest. Have a contest secretary to total the points and record the progress of the groups. Scores could be total points, progress along a time-line, or graphic displays. Canoes can progress down a stream, apples can appear on a tree, ornaments can be taken off a tree, arms of an octopus can be colored in, etc.

**Award prizes.** Announce you will have tremendous, spectacular prizes!! Try to know what the prizes will be before you start the contest. If possible, coordinate prizes with the theme of the contest. For example, have a winter theme contest with snowballs representing sections passed and snowmen representing visitors; the winning team gets to go ice-skating!